

IN THE SPECIFICATION: Please amend the paragraph under the heading CROSS

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS, which is rewritten in "clean" format":

B1
This application claims priority to U.S. Application Serial No. 60/152,497, filed September 2, 1999, and to U.S. Application Serial No. 08/936,868, filed September 24, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,214,309 B1 both of which are fully incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS: Please amend Claim 9, which is re-written in "clean" format:

B2
9. A method for the synthesis of micron- or submicron-sized, carbide cermet powders, comprising
high-energy ball milling a mixture of a carbon precursor, at least one of a precursor of SiC, TiC, VC, HfC, ThC₂, ThC, Cr₃C₂ WC, W₂C, ZrC, TaC, Ta₂C, or NbC, and a metal source to form a milled powder; and
annealing the milled powder to form micron- or submicron-sized, carbide cermet powders.
SUB C4
